

Appl. No. : 10/705,259
Filed : November 10, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 as follows.

Please cancel Claims 4, 5 and 9.

Please add new Claims 13-21 as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An anchoring system for a medical article comprising:
~~a medical article having an elongated body at least a portion of the medical article having a cross-sectional shape and a branching site at which point the elongated body separates into two elongated bodies;~~
a retainer comprising a base, a cover and an adhesive spot, the cover being pivotally coupled to the base and movable between an open position and a closed position, the cover and the base cooperating to define a channel when the cover lies in the closed position, ~~the channel~~ and being configured to receive at least ~~the portion of the branching site of the medical article and being sized at least as large as the cross-sectional shape of the portion of the medical article~~, and the adhesive spot being disposed upon the channel such that the adhesive spot lies in contact with ~~the retainer~~ and the medical article when the cover is in the closed position and inhibits motion of the medical article relative to the retainer, ~~the retainer further comprising a latching mechanism to releasably secure the cover in the closed position upon the base.~~
2. (Original) The anchoring system of Claim 1, the retainer further comprising at least one retainer member projecting into the channel and arranged to engage a portion of the medical article to inhibit axial movement of the medical article through the channel.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The anchoring system of Claim 1 wherein ~~the channel is configured to receive a branching site of the medical article further comprises a winged portion disposed proximal of the branching site.~~
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. **(Currently Amended)** The anchoring system of Claim 1 wherein the adhesive spot ~~has a thickness sufficient to exert~~ exerts a transverse force ~~between the surface of the channel and~~ against the medical article to bias the retained portion of the medical article against ~~an opposite side of~~ the channel of the retainer.

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7. (Currently Amended) A retainer for securing an elongated medical article, comprising:

a base having a first curvilinear section;
a cover ~~which~~having a second curvilinear section and being ~~is~~ attached to the base, the first curvilinear section and the second curvilinear section ~~base and cover~~ cooperating to define at least a portion of a channel when the cover is ~~being~~ juxtaposed ~~the base, the channel being sized so as~~ ~~configurable~~ to surround a portion of the elongated medical article; and

an adhesive spot being disposed upon at least one of the base and the cover such that the adhesive spot lies in contact with the medical article when the portion of the elongated medical article is surrounded by the base and the cover a latching mechanism operable between the base and the cover to releasably secure the cover to the base, the latching mechanism including a keeper and a latch, one of the keeper and the latch being disposed upon the base and the other of the keeper and the latch being disposed upon the cover, the keeper having at least one bar capable of interengaging with at least a portion of the latch, and the latch having a receptacle which accepts at least a portion of the bar when the cover and base surround the portion of the elongated medical article, the keeper also including an operator lever that can be actuated by the fingertip of a medical attendant to deflect the bar of the keeper toward the hinge to disengage the bar from the receptacle of the latch in order to release the latch from the keeper.

8. (Currently Amended) A retainer for securing an elongated medical article ~~having a branching site, the medical article also having a winged portion disposed proximal of the branching site, the retainer comprising:~~

a base;
a cover movably coupled to the base and having an open configuration position and a closed configuration position, the cover and the base cooperating to define a channel in the closed configuration position and being configured to receive at least a portion of the medical article; and

an adhesive spot being disposed upon the channel such that at least a portion of the adhesive spot lies under the cover when the cover lies in its closed position relative to the base, the channel being dimensioned such that when the winged portion of the

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~~medical article is positioned proximal to the retainer and the cover is in the closed configuration, the winged portion of the medical article is inhibited from moving distally into the channel.~~

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The retainer of Claim 8 further comprising a latching mechanism to releasably secure the cover in the closed configuration position.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of releaseably anchoring an elongated medical article ~~including a branching site~~ onto a patient which permits the medical article to be retained in the same position relative to the patient, comprising:

providing an anchoring device which provides an adhesive lower surface, and a retainer comprising a base, a cover, and a an adhesive spot compressible member, the base further comprising at least a groove, and the base and the cover together forming a channel when the cover is secured in position over at least a portion of the base;

inserting at least a portion ~~the branching site~~ of the medical article into the groove; positioning the cover over at least a portion of the groove;

securing the cover in a position overlying the covered portion of the groove to press a retained portion of the medical article against the adhesive spot compressible member to provide adhesion between the adhesive spot compressible member and the retained portion of the medical article; and

securing the anchoring device to the skin of the patient via the adhesive lower surface of the anchoring device.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of releaseably anchoring an elongated medical article ~~including a branching site~~ onto a patient which permits the medical article to be retained in the same position relative to the patient, comprising:

providing an anchoring device which provides an adhesive lower surface, and a retainer comprising a base, a cover, and a an adhesive spot compressible member, the base further comprising at least a groove, and the base and the cover together forming a channel when the cover is secured in position over at least a portion of the base;

inserting at least a portion ~~the branching site~~ of the medical article into the groove; positioning the cover over at least a portion of the groove;

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securing the cover in a position overlying the covered portion of the groove to press a retained portion of the medical article between the adhesive spot eompressible member and a side of the channel; and

securing the anchoring device to the skin of the patient via the adhesive lower surface of the anchoring device.

13. (New) The retainer of Claim 1 further comprising a latching mechanism to releasably secure the cover in the closed position.

14. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the base extends beyond the cover when the cover lies in the closed position.

15. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 1 additionally comprising a receptacle in the base and at least one projection coupled to the cover such that the projection engages with the receptacle when the cover lies in the closed.

16. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 1, wherein a width of the channel varies in a lateral direction along a longitudinal length of the channel.

17. (New) The retainer of Claim 7 further comprising a latching mechanism to releasably secure the cover when the cover juxtaposes the base.

18. (New) The retainer of Claim 7, wherein the adhesive spot lies at least partially within the channel when the cover juxtaposes the base.

19. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the base extends beyond the cover when the cover juxtaposes the base.

20. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 7 additionally comprising a receptacle in the base and at least one projection coupled to the cover such that the projection engages with the receptacle when the cover lies juxtaposed to the base.

21. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 7, wherein a width of the channel varies in a lateral direction along a longitudinal length of the channel.